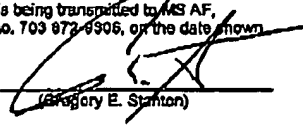


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to MS AF,
Commissioner for Patents, via facsimile no. 703 672-6906, on the date shown
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Dated: September 23, 2004 Signature: 
(Gregory E. Stanton)

Docket No.: 06005/35530
(PATENT)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

HAVEKOST et al.

Application No.: 09/777,225

Art Unit: 2113

Filed: February 5, 2001

Examiner: C. S. McCarthy

**For: HIERARCHICAL FAILURE MANAGEMENT
FOR PROCESS CONTROL SYSTEMS**

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Final Office Action dated March 24, 2004, please amend the
above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on
Page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on Page 10 of this paper.